



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

Abandoned Grove Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

How is an abandoned grove defined for purposes of the initiative?

Abandoned Grove Definition

- No current production care
- No current commercial harvesting activities
- Minimal or no production value or no longer economically viable as a commercial citrus grove

Who is eligible to receive an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement?

- Any Grower/Caretaker with a valid Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement.

How do I benefit from an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement?

- The reclassification of the property once all conditions are met will reduce the tax assessment to a de minimus value of \$50 per acre as set forth in Section 193.461 (7)
(a) Florida Statutes for five years as long as:
 - o You leave the land fallow and maintain it clear of debris and sprouts
 - o Replant citrus during the time the AGCA is in effect. The de minimus assessment is good for the full five years, whether you leave it fallow or replant with citrus.
- It benefits the industry as well by removing abandoned property that provides a source of pests and disease that can destroy healthy citrus.

What is the basic process or procedure in CHRP for abandoned groves?

- Owner/grower contacts the local CHRP office to request a site verification survey **prior to** removing trees and the inspector will conduct an inspection for eligibility, or
- CHRP inspector site verifies a property in the course of regular survey duties, determines the eligibility of the property to qualify as abandoned and contacts the owner to see if interested in participating in the Abandoned Grove Initiative.
- If the owner chooses to participate in the program, all trees must be killed or removed including seedlings and sprouts at their own expense.

- *Owner again contacts the local CHRP office to revisit the property to site verify the removal /destruction of the trees and if it has been completed, a Certificate of Destruction is completed and an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement (AGCA) is issued to the owner.*
- *The owner presents the AGCA to the local property appraiser's office to request reclassification of the property for the reduced assessment.*
- *The CHRP office will perform site inspections once per year for the duration of the AGCA to be sure the property owner keeps the property free of sprouts, seedlings, and feral trees.*
- *Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreements are valid for five years and there are no provisions to extend the five-year agreements. Upon expiration, it is up to the local property appraiser to determine the land use and assessment.*

What will the property appraiser require from me as a landowner?

- *Most require the Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement that is provided to the landowner along with the Certificate of Destruction when the citrus trees are confirmed destroyed by a CHRP representative.*

Does the state have a program to remove the trees and pay the costs of removal? Is there any compensation available to the property owner?

- *No, there is no state-provided removal program or compensation at this time.*

What if I need more information?

Please contact our helpline, 1-888-397-1517.

(Rev. 9/2021)

2016 Florida Statutes, Chapter 193.461, 7(a) (Agricultural lands; classification and assessment)

(7)(a) Lands classified for assessment purposes as agricultural lands which are taken out of production by a state or federal eradication or quarantine program shall continue to be classified as agricultural lands for the duration of such program or successor programs. Lands under these programs which are converted to fallow or otherwise nonincome-producing uses shall continue to be classified as agricultural lands and shall be assessed at a de minimis value of up to \$50 per acre on a single-year assessment methodology; however, lands converted to other income-producing agricultural uses permissible under such programs shall be assessed pursuant to this section. Land under a mandated eradication or quarantine program which is diverted from an agricultural to a nonagricultural use shall be assessed under s. [193.011](#).